

Pro-Arab demo in Washington

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Agencies) — Hundreds of pro-Arab demonstrators carrying Palestinian flags marched up and down outside the White House today as President Jimmy Carter greeted visiting Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The demonstrators carried signs reading: "Menachem Begin is a fascist," "signed 'Ben Gurion'," "long live PLO" and "stop U.S. military aid to Israel." A self styled "Polish fighter for freedom" carried a slogan calling for a "holy war against the bandit state of Israel."

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U.S. welcomes Vietnam to U.N.

UNITED NATIONS, New York, July 19 (AFP) — The United States today welcomed Vietnam's application for admission to the United Nations and said it looked forward to working with Hanoi to bring about "a new era of peace." Speaking before the U.N. Security Council session -- at which the council's admissions committee report on Vietnam's application is being submitted -- U.S. Representative Donald McHenry said: "When the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is admitted to membership in the U.N. this fall ... the principle of universality will be further advanced."

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King Hussein meets with Gulf leaders

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks with three Gulf leaders Tuesday on the first day of a lightning tour of four states.

The King left Amman Tuesday morning to brief the leaders of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates on the outcome of his recent talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter and discuss the latest moves towards a Middle East peace settlement.

The Gulf tour follows similar discussions held last week with President Sadat of Egypt in Cairo and with King Khaled of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah.

The King was seen off at Amman Airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, members of the Royal family and top government officials.

King Hussein's delegation includes Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Court Minister Amer Khammash and His Majesty's Military Secretary Maj. Gen. Atallah Ghassib.

King Hussein was greeted in Kuwait by Crown Prince Sheikh Jaber al Ahmed al Sabah who is also Prime Minister and, in the absence of the Emir Sheikh Sabah al Salem al Sabah, acting Head of State.

Sheikh Jaber hosted a state lunch in honour of King Hussein and headed the Kuwaiti delegation in talks with the King. Jordan News Agency reported from Kuwait that the King reviewed the results of his visit to the United States and the visits he is making to

Arab countries aimed at attaining the necessary degree of Arab coordination required to face current political developments.

After Kuwait the King flew onto Bahrain where he was met by the Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al Khalifa. The Jordanian and Bahraini delegations met at Qutubiyah Palace on Tuesday afternoon.

A few hours later the King left for Doha where he was received by the Qatari Emir, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al Thani.

King Hussein's talks with the three leaders, in addition to discussing the current Arab political situation and His Majesty's U.S. visit covered the strengthening of relations between Jordan and the Gulf states.

Reuters quoted Jordanian sources in Kuwait as denying Kuwaiti press reports that the King was promoting a new formula linking Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians in future peace talks with Israel.

Observers pointed out that as Prime Minister Mudar Badran had only last week reiterated Jordanian support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, Jordan was not likely to go against the PLO's desire to establish a Palestinian state.

His Majesty spent Tuesday night in Doha and is expected in the United Arab Emirates this morning before returning home later today.



MILITARY POSITION -- Syrian troops of the Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon are seen manning an anti-aircraft gun (left) and a machinegun (right) at a placement on the way to Beirut airport, near the Sabra Palestinian refugee camp. Security is tight in the wake of skirmishes between armed groups last week. (AP wirephoto).

Syria, Lebanon, PLO to set up DMZ along southern Lebanese borders

BEIRUT, July 19 (AFP) — Lebanon, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have agreed to set up demilitarized sectors along southern Lebanon's border with Israel while leaving the Argoub, at the foot of Mount Hermon, open to Palestinians, reliable sources said here today.

The decisions were covered in an agreement of principle reached by the three parties during several rounds of negotiations, which are still going on.

But the key issue of Palestinian refugee camps, their right to arms and obligations to outside controls, remained unsettled, the sources said.

The sources stressed that many difficulties had to be worked out before a final agreement could be concluded. The Lebanese and Syrians reportedly want a simultaneous, global settlement of all problems, while the Palestinians seek a step-by-step approach to the issues beginning with the establishment of a three-sided coordination commission, then settlement of the southern Lebanese security problem and finally implementation of the 1969 Cairo agree-

ment regulating armed Palestinian presence in the country.

So far, the three parties have agreed in principle to the withdrawal of all combatants from certain border areas and to the setting up of demilitarized sectors in the sensitive zone, the reliable sources said.

But the Argoub -- called Fitehghand -- would remain open to a Palestinian presence, the sources said.

Syria and Lebanon also agreed to deploy the first units of the new Lebanese army,

now in training, to the border area, to reactivate the Israeli-Lebanese Armistice Commission and to strengthen United Nations observer posts along the border, the sources said.

Regarding the Palestinian camps, Syria and Lebanon have called for the evacuation of all heavy weapons from the camps, which they would like to see under the surveillance of an Arab peace-keeping force.

Since 1969, the PLO has been the only authority inside Lebanon's Palestinian camps.

Smith's plan for elections rejected by Britain, black moderates, hardliners

SALISBURY, July 19 (AFP) — Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith's plans for a general election were today rejected by the two moderate black leaders whose cooperation he will need. It was also rejected by Britain and hardline Patriotic Front leaders.

The election plan also came under attack from white hardliners, who accused Mr. Smith of pandering, while one of the leaders of the Patriotic Front guerrilla force waging war on the Rhodesia regime shrugged it off as irrelevant.

Announcing the election yesterday, Mr. Smith said parliament would be dissolved today and the country's whites and blacks will go to the polls on August 31 to prepare for a broad-based government including blacks.

Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, expressed dismay and said it seemed to be a new delaying tactic. "We don't know what Mr. Smith hopes to achieve by calling election. I'm surprised and dismayed. It looks like another delaying tactic," Mr. Sithole told reporters.

"I don't expect to be asked to join his government and, if asked, I would refuse. Any black politician who does join will rightly be considered a puppet."

Mr. Sithole, who returned to Salisbury less than two weeks ago after two years of self-imposed exile from Rhodesia, said he would not be satisfied with any resolution of the Rhodesian situation that did not incorporate majority rule for the territory's six million blacks.

In dismissing the election announced by Mr. Smith in a television broadcast last night, Mr. Sithole joined other leading black nationalists who have already scoffed at the prime minister's latest move.

The Rev. Max Chigwide, Secretary General of Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council, said: "Mr. Smith will have to think again. There is only one answer to

our problems and that is majority rule."

Mr. Smith said in his broadcast that he had plans for an internal settlement, following what he considered the failure of the initiative launched by Britain and the United States. He wanted a mandate for a broad-based government containing black Rhodesians who were willing to assist in obtaining a peaceful settlement.

In Dar Es Salaam, militant black nationalist leader Robert Mugabe said today the calling of an election by Mr. Smith was irrelevant in the struggle for freedom in the breakaway British colony.

Mr. Mugabe, co-leader with Mr. Joshua Nkomo of the Patriotic Front nationalist alliance, told a news conference that Mr. Smith should resign and "leave the people to decide the future of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)."

Mr. Joshua Nkomo said in Dar Es Salaam today that elections to be held in Rhodesia "did not affect the situation at all ... It is just a matter of fascist bandits' reshuffling themselves."

The Patriotic Front has just completed in Dar Es Salaam a three-day meeting of its Coordinating Committee and announced subsequently "concrete measures" to re-enforce the armed struggle against the white minority regime in Salisbury.

The meeting was attended by the two leaders of the front, Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe.

In London, British Prime Minister James Callaghan today dismissed the planned Rhodesian general election as an irrelevant issue until a system of one-man-one-vote is introduced.

Carter, Begin meet on cordial but challenging note at White House

WASHINGTON, July 19 (R) — President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin today began two days of talks after acknowledging differences over Middle East policy and pledging to try to solve them.

During the meetings, Mr. Begin will discuss an Israeli peace plan for the region which he hopes will win favour with the president.

In a welcoming speech on the White House lawn, President Carter emphasized the importance of Mr. Begin's visit.

"This is a very important day in the history of our nation, perhaps for the future of the Middle East and perhaps even for the future of the world," he said.

Mr. Begin, a former guerrilla leader who won power in general elections two months ago, is the last of the Middle East leaders to visit Washington as part of Mr. Carter's efforts to forge a peaceful settlement in the area.

Among the issues the two leaders were discussing was a resumption of the Geneva peace conference which has not met since December, 1973. Agreement must be reached on how the Palestinians should be

represented when negotiations restart.

Mr. Carter is also anxious to discover the extent of Israeli willingness to hand back Arab territories occupied during the 1967 war.

The president and Mr. Begin got down to discussions immediately after the welcoming ceremonies.

The Israeli premier was also meeting Defence Secretary Harold Brown and Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal before a working dinner with Mr. Carter at the White House tonight.

Mr. Carter told Mr. Begin that the United States shared Israel's view that all the issues involving its Arab neighbours were negotiable.

"Although there may be differences of perspective and viewpoint between him and me, between his nation and the United States, the common goal of finding a path to a permanent peace will inevitably bind us together," the president said.

Mr. Begin emphasised that "peace is inseparable from national security" but added: "We yearn for peace, we pray for peace. We shall do everything humanly possible and make all possible endeavours to bring about a real peace between us and our neighbours."

Recalling the annihilation of the Jews in World War II, Mr. Begin said that without national security, the life of every Israeli was under direct threat.

Mr. Begin added that as free countries, the United States and Israel should stand together to persevere in the struggle for human rights and democracy.

"We may have differences

of opinion. We shall never disagree. We shall only agree to differ," he said.

The president praised Mr. Begin, as a man of principle and independence, and said he admired his "deep and unwavering religious commitment."

He said he was particularly impressed that the first action of Mr. Begin's government after it was formed last month was to admit to Israel Vietnamese refugees who had been floating in boats in the Pacific.

"It was an act of compassion and an act of sensitivity, and a recognition by him and his government of the importance of a home for people who are homeless and destitute and would like to express their own individuality and freedom in a common way," he said.

The president concluded with a quotation from the book of the old testament prophet Isaiah: "And the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effects of righteousness quietness and assurance forever." Mr. Begin began his speech in Hebrew and then translated: "I have come as the spokesman for an ancient people and a young renaissance nation."

He said his decision to give refuge to the Vietnamese had been a natural act because Israel had never forgotten the plight of Jewish refugees during the last world war.

He ended by expressing the hope that he would be able to reciprocate Mr. Carter's hospitality by welcoming the president to Israel.

The president appeared, in underlining the issue of stateless people or refugees, to be alluding to the question of a Palestinian homeland -- subject that will be central in his talks with Mr. Begin.

Mr. Carter joked at the beginning that he was especially pleased to see Mr. Begin because he was the first visiting foreign leader to be his junior in terms of tenure in office. "I welcome the chance to act as the senior statesman," he said.

Man flogged under new Islamic code in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, July 19 (AFP) — A man convicted of theft was whipped in public under a new Islamic penal code, it was reported here today.

A large crowd watched the man receive six lashes on the back in Muzaffargarh town, Punjab province, yesterday.

Under the penal code announced by the military government early this month, theft is punishable by whipping or by surgical amputation of the hand, depending on the seriousness of the offense.

In Rawalpindi Pakistan's military government today said that detained political leaders had "misused" newly-given rights to receive their supporters and withdrew permission for visits.

Permission to receive guests was granted only three days ago to politicians held in "protective" custody at Murree hill resort, about 40 miles north of here, since the July 5 military coup. They include dismissed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, members of his dismissed cabinet and leaders of the nine-party opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA).



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Eritrean forces battle for Ethiopian garrison of Agordat



ATTACK -- One of the crew of an Ethiopian army armored car lies dead near his wrecked vehicle after it was attacked on the road from Asmara to Koren by Eritrean rebels. The attack on the armored car occurred during the Eritreans' drive to Koren which fell on July 8. (AP wirephoto).

BEIRUT, July 19 (AFP) — Fierce street-fighting has been raging since early yesterday in the large Eritrean town of Agordat, in north eastern Ethiopia, a spokesman for the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) said here today.

Ethiopian aircraft had been in action against the Eritreans, the ELF said, but one Ethiopian Garrison at Agordat was surrounded.

Eritrean forces launched the operation against Agordat a week ago but the final attack was launched during the night of Sunday/Monday. The Eritreans now control one part of

the town, situated about 100 kms. west of the Eritrean provincial capital of Asmara.

The Ethiopian garrison town at Agordat, 10 kms. further west of Agordat was practically in Eritrean hands, the ELF spokesman added.

He said the central military rulers were meanwhile, trying to reopen the important road linking the capital, Addis Ababa, with the Red Sea port of Assab.

Heavy reinforcements of Ethiopian troops had been airlifted into Asmara to try to ease the pressure applied by Eritrean guerrillas on the provincial capital, the spokesman added.

Polisario claims shooting down Mauritanian plane

ALGIERS, July 19 (AFP) — Polisario guerrillas have launched an attack on Mauritanian forces near Aguenit in the Mauritanian sector of former Spanish Sahara and have shot down an "enemy" reconnaissance plane, the Algiers-based Saharan Nationalist Movement announced today.

The attack came only a few days after Polisario's second raid in less than three months on the Mauritanian mining town of Zouerate.

Polisario said several Mauritanian soldiers had been "neutralized" in the attack.

The communiqué also said Zouerate attack on July resulted in the "destruction of the railway ore terminal, the

destruction of three enemy jeeps and the recovery of a machine gun, a mortar, rocket launcher, 37 rifles and a radio transmitter".

In a communiqué on July 5, Polisario said 3,000 Moroccan troops were aiding the Mauritians at Aguenit, an oasis town some 100 kms South West of Zouerate.

In Nouakchott the official daily, Shaab, claimed Mauritanian government forces had inflicted "heavy losses" to the column of Saharan nationalist guerrillas who raided the northern mining town of Zouerate for the second time in three months last Saturday.

Shaab said that four Mauritanian soldiers and one civilian were killed in the raid.



HIDING PLACE -- Old Francisco Montean, 77, shows how he hid under his bed in his house in a town 30 kms. from Madrid during 38 years in hiding from Franco's regime. Old Francisco emerged Monday, the day of Spain's anniversary of the civil war.

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Shangri-la dons no more its lama robes

For the first time since China put down the rebellion in Tibet in 1959 and the Dalai Lama fled to India, China has allowed Peking-based foreign journalists to visit the "roof of the world."

By David Rogers

LHASA, Tibet, July 18 (R). — Flight 491 from Chengtu descended into the rocky valley, skimmed over a sluggish, muddy river and touched down in a land where 27 years ago there were no wheeled vehicles.

The roar of the Ilyushin 18's turbo-propellers scattered a herd of goats but drew scarcely a glance from the black-cloaked shepherd gathering kindling for a bonfire.

These days there are six flights a week to Lhasa and occasionally foreigners are aboard.

Under feudalism and communism, Tibet has been the legendary "forbidden land" on the world's highest plateau. But now doors are slowly opening.

I travelled here with correspondents of the Italian News Agency ANSA and the Yugoslav agency Tanjug. We were the first Peking-based group of foreign journalists allowed into Tibet since the Chinese put down the 1959 rebellion and broke the rule of the Buddhist god-king, the Dalai Lama.

The changes since then have been traumatic but are hardly reflected on the 100 kms. drive from the airport to Lhasa.

The car winds along a dirt track by the Tsang-po River. It passes primitive one dwelling and scruffy hamlets whose mud walls bear red inscriptions in the long, loping characters of Tibetan script.

On the verges are occasional groups of men brewing butter-tea in soot-blackened pots. They wear robes slung slacksy across their chests, boots and wide-brimmed felt hats.

The horses grazing nearby have bells round their necks and the tinkling carries far in the thin air.

Some of the surrounding peaks are snow-capped and down in the valley the sun shines on patches of ripening wheat. An eagle is perched on a road-side rock. A yak-skin boat glides down the river.

On the car seat is a khaki oxygen-filled pillow attached to a nozzle. Acclimatising to the 3,600 metre altitude is a problem the Chinese take seriously.

An oxygen cylinder stands by each bed in the guest house and a young Chinese woman doctor gives new arrivals regular check-ups -- despite the fact that back in Peking we underwent electric cardiograph, blood and respiratory tests.

For the first 24 hours at least strenuous action leaves you breathless. The doctor's prescription at nightfall is a sedative, half an hour of oxygen and a bowl of yogurt.

Lhasa, once Buddhism's most holy city, is now a Chinese frontier town. Before 1959, ochre-robed lamas crowded the streets and pursuit of religion was the major preoccupation.

The new Lhasa, standing in the shadow of the Dalai Lama's towering Potala Palace, is spartan -- single-storey Chinese architecture and neatly-planted shade trees.

It is like numerous Chinese towns -- except here Tibetans tether their horses to lamp posts and a group of herdsmen camp down opposite the department store.

With the rest of China, Lhasa rises to the strains of the "east in red" pouring forth from loudspeakers and kept the same time as Peking although it is geographically two hours behind.

There is a growing industrial quarter, schools -- mass education was opposed by the old lamas -- and the suburban communes boast impressive results from new strains of wheat.

The 120,000-population has been organised into units run by neighbourhood committees and there is just enough traffic to require a couple of policemen on point duty.

In a week this correspondent did not see a single lama on the streets. Religion, once the totally dominating influence of Tibetan life, has been discouraged to the point of virtual non-existence.

Freedom of faith is enshrined in the Chinese constitution and guides here never fail to point this out. But an ordinary citizen would today be unable to carry out the full rites demanded by Tibet's exotic Buddhist offshoot, lamaism.

The official explanation is that religion was used by the old order to "fetter the serfs" and that since the abortive 1959 insurrection the people have gained freedom.

Their political consciousness has risen and they have cast away their old faith -- now described as "an obstacle to development."

In recent Tibetan history, there are three key years, the milestones that crop up in every briefing, in every visit to hospital, school, factory and the meticulously renovated monasteries.

These are 1950, when the People's Liberation Army (PLA) marched into Tibet to "liberate an inalienable part of China"; 1959, year of the hopeless rebellion, and 1965 when Tibet became an autonomous region of China and began "socialist construction".

The date that matters most is March 1959. Simmering unrest led to an anti-Chinese uprising in Lhasa, the Dalai Lama fled to India for safety and Peking accelerated the process of bringing Tibet into line with "motherland" China.

Until then the Dalai Lama, reincarnation of Buddha and 14th in a line that stretches back to the 15th century, had retained more than nominal power.

His moral authority was huge and his subjects -- China insists -- 95 per cent were serfs -- looked to the Potala Palace for guidance.

The Chinese had generally kept a low profile in the countryside, building roads, opening schools and trying to impress the Tibetans that the future should be Peking-style social development not feudal lamaism.

After the 1959 Lhasa rebellion which was crushed in three days, lamaism came under attack. "Mobilised" by Communist Party cadres, lamas and nuns poured out of the monasteries and nunneries.

Many monasteries, focal points of the far-flung towns and villages, fell into disrepair and the people were formed into mutual aid groups -- forerunners of the communes.

The Dalai Lama has stayed in Dharamsala on the Indian side of the Himalayas, where he was joined by some 65,000 followers. Lhasa Radio beams special services aimed at prompting them home, and officials here say a few have returned.

Since 1959 there have been occasional reports of alleged CIA backed resistance by the Khamba people from eastern Tibet, but the most reliable evidence suggests this ended several years ago.

Officials here say there is no longer any opposition and that the 1.7 million population has become a part of the socialist system. Even the nomads who wander the three-mile high Chiang Tang plain are enrolled in communes. It is claimed the influx of Han Chinese has not been as great as in other minority areas.

The official figure is 120,000 Han, many of them operating from the regional administration here, plus the undisclosed legions of the People's Liberation Army.

The P.L.A. guard a 3,500 km. border which has been the source of armed conflict with India. The situation is now described as stable but only the Chinese section of the frontier is open for small-scale trading.

Sixty per cent of the cadres are said to be Tibetan but the Han Chinese hold the important jobs. The top administrator, Gen. Jen Jung, is a Korean War veteran and there is never any doubt about Peking's authority here.

Briefings for visitors are invariably given by Tibetans but there is usually a Han cadre to intervene on sensitive issues.

This correspondent was impressed that officials were as Peking ways available for discussion. On tours of Chinese provinces correspondents sometimes never come into contact with local leaders the picture that emerged from these talks was of a backward area making steady development and probably poised for dramatic progress in the late 1980s.

The past is depicted as "a hell in the human world." The Dalai Lama, the monasteries and the aristocrats are subjected to a constant campaign of denunciation designed to break any attachment to the old regime.

One guide alleged that when the Dalai recited sutras (Buddhist texts) a human heart, liver or arm was sacrificed.

The "liberated serfs" have now been formed into more than 2,000 communes, and 1.8 million mou (300,000 acres) are under irrigation. Tibet is said to be self-sufficient in grain and as agricultural research continues crops are grown at ever higher altitudes.

Officials say there are now 74,000 industrial workers who are on higher wage rates than their counterparts in the "motherland". They receive free medical treatment and housing at rents of about \$1 dollar a month.

Tibetans, like China's other minorities, are not subject to family planning strictures and

more of them can read their own language than at any other time. The Tibetan script edition of the Tibetan daily boasts a circulation of 45,000.

Tibet's inaccessibility limits development. It takes 12 days for convoys to travel here across the mountains from Chengtu, the nearest Chinese city.

Work has started on a 2,100 km. line to link Tibet with China's rail network. When that happens, Mr. Yang Tsung-hsin, the administration's vice chairman, predicts rapid exploitation of known mineral resources and "much faster construction".

People here still recall the arrival of the first motor car in 1951 -- it was brought into Lhasa in pieces on the backs of camels.

Better than anything, the opening of the rail line will symbolise that this region, whose seclusion gave birth to a unique civilisation, has joined the 20th century.

You have to visit the temples, Potala Palace or the old quarter of Lhasa to get an idea of the Lhasa of legend, the land romantics painted as a Shangri-la.

Almost everyone in the old quarter is in traditional dress, an elderly woman pokes out her tongue as a sign of respect and scuttling Tibetans dig their fingers into a bowl of tsampa -- a dough made of barley flour, butter, sugar and water.

Flowers are on almost every window-sill in the three-storey stone houses and trading is conducted on the pavements. But I saw only one symptom of live religion, an old man mumbling as he fingered a rosary.

The political tide mounts against Mrs. Bandaranaike

COLOMBO, July 18 (R). — Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike will be battling the tide of recent history in the subcontinent as well as her political opponents in the Sri Lankan general elections on Thursday.

Mrs. Bandaranaike, 61, and leader of this small island nation at the southern tip of India for the past seven years, is the last of the four major South Asian leaders of her era still in office.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Bangladesh president killed in a military takeover in August 1975, was the first to go and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, defeated as prime minister of India in general elections in March, the second.

The removal of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan in a military coup in Rawalpindi in early July dealt a further blow to Mrs. Bandaranaike's chances of staying in power.

Her Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) faces what seems to be an irresistible challenge from the United National Party (UNP) headed by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene.

Sri Lanka's 6.7 million voters will elect a new National State Assembly of 168 members.

The election is virtually a straight fight between the SLFP and the UNP, although there are several other groupings in the fray.

The others include the recently-formed United Left Front (ULF), dominated by the Communist Party and the Trotskyist Lanka Sama Samaja Party, and also the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) which

is demanding the formation of a separate Tamil State.

The leftists seem likely to be swept aside in the main electoral battle but the TULF is virtually certain of winning a block of at least 20 seats in the predominantly Tamil northern and eastern provinces.

In the event of a close result the Tamils would hold a powerful bargaining position and the ULF, even if it wins only a small number of seats, could decide which of the major parties forms the next government.

Junius Richard Jayewardene, 70, one of the major figures in Sri Lankan politics for over 20 years, believes that his moment has come.

He draws encouragement from the success of Mr. Morar-

ji Desai, who became prime minister of India four months ago at the age of 81 and whose political career Mr. Jayewardene's closely resembles.

Mr. Jayewardene predicts that his party will win 102 seats, close to a two-thirds majority, in the new parliament.

Other senior party officials believe the UNP will do even better.

But Mrs. Bandaranaike is a formidable political fighter. She became the world's first woman prime minister when she led the SLFP to victory in July, 1960. She was then the 44-year-old widow of the country's previous Prime Minister, Solomon Bandaranaike, who was assassinated in September, 1959.

Mrs. Bandaranaike was defeated in 1965 but swept back to power with a commanding majority in May, 1970.

By outlasting Mrs. Gandhi Mrs. Bandaranaike has the distinction of being the world's only woman head of government at the present time.

She extended her present term by bringing in a republican constitution on May 22, 1972 and claiming that her five year mandate extended from that date and not from the time of her election.

The claim has not proved popular and Sri Lankans have been in the grip of election fever for almost the past two years.

The gradual breakup of Mrs. Bandaranaike's three-party ruling alliance finally left her no option but to go to the people.

She expelled the Lanka Sama Samaja Party from her government in September 1975, after handing the country's deteriorating economy. Its leader is the former Finance Minister Dr. N. M. Perera.

The Communist Party, led by former Housing Minister Pieter Keuneman, left the government in February this year. A defector from the ruling party itself was Industries Minister Tikiri Banda Subasinghe who formed the People's Demo-

cratic Party and now heads the leftist alliance.

The two main issues in the election campaign are the economy and alleged nepotism under Mrs. Bandaranaike's rule. Inflation has hit the island hard. Sri Lankans cite with anger the high prices of such essentials as onions, chillis, sugar and tea which have at least quadrupled over the past seven years.

There has also been until very recently a serious shortage of cereals, milu powder, soap and matches.

A ban was placed on the import of these and other essential items in an attempt to encourage local industry and production.

These items have been plentifully available in the election run-in.

The island has had an unprecedented rash of strikes in recent months with results ranging from a power blackout across the country for 36 hours to two major rail stoppages and shut down of the country's universities for almost two months.

Mrs. Bandaranaike's 28-year-old son, Anura, is the most controversial candidate in the elections. The head of the SLFP's youth wing and her official adviser on youth affairs, he is seen as a symbol of the way members of the prime minister's family have been promoted to top government jobs.

Her eldest daughter, Sunethra, 33, holds the key position of co-ordinating officer to the prime minister and minister of defence. Another daughter, Chandrika, 30, is Chairman of the People's Estates Development Board which controls the bulk of nationalised tea and rubber plantations.

Several other close relatives are either in high government positions or candidates in the elections.

The UNP, with 154 candidates, is contesting the largest number of seats, followed by the ruling party with 146 and the ULF with 132.

The Tamil areas are being left largely to the TULF which is confident of success for its 24 nominees.

Mr. Jayewardene's UNP is considered the farthest right of all the parties and is accused by its opponents of being pro-Western and pro-capitalist.

But Mr. Jayewardene denies these labels and says that under his leadership the party has moved towards democratic socialism. He says there is no going back on the nationalisation policies of the present government.

"The UNP is now a poor man's party which will be as radical as any party can be without violence," he has promised. He has also pledged that a UNP government will restore fundamental rights and freedoms and be independent which he claims have been eroded under SLFP rule.

Sri Lankans expect a period of firm government if the UNP comes to power. Mr. Jayewardene has a reputation for firm and fair administration and as a man who gets things done.

The UNP held only 17 seats in the last parliament, dissolved in May, against 85 for the FLFP.

But such is the state of Sri Lankan politics that a swing of 11 per cent would see Mr. Jayewardene emerge with a two-thirds majority.



Mrs. SIRIMAWO BANDARANAIKE

ji Desai, who became prime minister of India four months ago at the age of 81 and whose political career Mr. Jayewardene's closely resembles.

Mr. Jayewardene predicts that his party will win 102 seats, close to a two-thirds majority, in the new parliament.

Other senior party officials believe the UNP will do even better.

But Mrs. Bandaranaike is a formidable political fighter. She became the world's first woman prime minister when she led the SLFP to victory in July, 1960. She was then the 44-year-old widow of the country's previous Prime Minister, Solomon Bandaranaike, who was assassinated in September, 1959.

Mrs. Bandaranaike was defeated in 1965 but swept back to power with a commanding majority in May, 1970.

By outlasting Mrs. Gandhi Mrs. Bandaranaike has the distinction of being the world's only woman head of government at the present time.

She extended her present term by bringing in a republican constitution on May 22, 1972 and claiming that her five year mandate extended from that date and not from the time of her election.

The claim has not proved popular and Sri Lankans have been in the grip of election fever for almost the past two years.

The gradual breakup of Mrs. Bandaranaike's three-party ruling alliance finally left her no option but to go to the people.

She expelled the Lanka Sama Samaja Party from her government in September 1975, after handing the country's deteriorating economy. Its leader is the former Finance Minister Dr. N. M. Perera.

The Communist Party, led by former Housing Minister Pieter Keuneman, left the government in February this year. A defector from the ruling party itself was Industries Minister Tikiri Banda Subasinghe who formed the People's Demo-

Enter Desai, out alcohol

NEW DELHI, July 19 (AFP). — Two developments in the past week have strengthened the hand of India's prohibition lobby in its efforts to make this country totally dry within a year.

First was Prime Minister Morarji Desai's declaration on July 11 that he was committed to total prohibition and would spare no effort to introduce it. Secondly, over 20 people died and several others were hospitalised in the last three days in the suburbs of the capital after consuming illicit liquor said to have been made out of methylated spirits and paint.

Mr. Desai, 81, has championed the cause of prohibition since he became an important Congress leader and minister for finance in the erstwhile state of Bombay in the fifties. But the Bombay government abandoned the policy after it failed to control bootlegging and deaths from consumption of poisonous liquor.

Mr. Desai could not get his way when he joined the central government in the sixties because prohibition was a state subject and the centre could not compel any state government to enforce it. The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was also reluctant to promote the cause.

But the tragedy of the last three days has given some urgency to the problem. It became the subject of a serious debate in the lower house of parliament yesterday with several members asking Home Minister Charan Singh to consider imposition of total prohibition.

Mr. Singh agreed to call a meeting of Janata Party members to find out their views on prohibition, adding that the party leader, Mr. Desai, was "unequivocally committed to total prohibition in the whole country" and promised to do everything possible in that direction.

Education Minister Dr. P. C. Chameer, who was asked by Mr. Desai to study the question, meanwhile, said chief ministers and excise ministers of states would meet here by the end of this month to chalk out a programme for prohibition.

Mr. Desai's statement also encouraged members of the All-India Prohibition Council to hold peaceful marches and meetings in the capital. The council, whose membership is largely composed of women, has decided to mark September 11 next as All-India Prohibition Day and has scheduled meetings and demonstrations throughout the country on the occasion.

France seeks restored influence in the Arab World through increased arms sales

By Gilbert Sedbon
PARIS, July 18 Reuter -- As France increases its arms sales to Arab countries, a market once dominated by the Soviet Union, it is also trying to increase its overall influence in the area.

The French became enthusiastic arms salesmen when the late Gen. De Gaulle decided that, through the sale of military equipment, he could re-capture the influence in the Arab World that France lost during the Algerian war.

The policy was pursued by his successor, the late President Georges Pompidou, who was responsible for a controversial sale of 110 Mirage jets to Libya.

And President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, faced with an economic crisis when oil prices soared after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, plunged into the arms bazaar, swapping sophisticated weapons for oil.

After making good part of Egypt's arms losses in that war, the French now have a major foothold in Iraq and Syria with sales of fighter-bombers, helicopters, tanks and missiles.

For some 20 years, Egypt, Syria and Iraq had depended

mainly on the Soviet Union for arms supplies. But, after Moscow refused to supply Cairo with new arms and spare parts, President Anwar Sadat turned to France.

Although Syria and Iraq have not been refused by the Soviet Union, they have decided to diversify their arms sales anyway and are turning to France for planes, helicopters, tanks and missiles.

Iraqi Vice President Saddam Hussein, who is to visit France later this year, is negotiating the purchase of 72 Mirage F-1 combat aircraft. He is also seeking nuclear power plants and other French industrial equipment, according to officials here.

Despite pressure from abroad, especially from President Carter, to cut back the lucrative arms trade, France has now clinched deals with most of the Arab countries, from Saudi Arabia to Morocco.

"There is nothing naughty about selling arms to the oil-rich Arab countries," said one of President Giscard d'Estaing's aides. "They must defend their newly acquired wealth and what we have been saying for the past 10 or 15 years still holds good. If we don't sell others will."

By helping the Arab World build up its armed forces, M. Giscard d'Estaing has won the confidence of the Arab leaders. But he has also tried to convince them of the need to recognise Israel's right to secure and internationally guaranteed borders.

He has also tried to convince France's Common Market partners and the United States that the Palestinian people need a homeland as part of an overall Middle East settlement.

M. Giscard d'Estaing caused a major furore in December 1974 when his then Foreign Minister, M. Jean Sauvagnargues, received Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat at the French Embassy in Damascus during a tour of the Middle East.

The French president prides himself on being the first Western leader to have driven home to the Arab World the need to accept Israel.

The French claim for a Parashort of Arab claims for a state, but the French believe this is a matter for negotiation between the Arabs and Israelis when the Geneva Peace Conference resumes. It is hoped before the end of this year.

M. Giscard d'Estaing has visited several Arab capitals, including Cairo, Riyadh, Algiers, Rabat and Tunis. He sent his Prime Minister, M. Raymond Barre, to Baghdad in June and there are plans for him to visit Damascus in October.

French Foreign Minister Louis de Guringaud and Defence Minister Yvon Bourges have toured the whole Arab World.

Apart from arms, the French have launched a major drive to sell nuclear power plants in the Middle East.

While backing efforts to prevent a proliferation of atomic weapons, M. Giscard d'Estaing shows no inclination to change his nuclear policy as a result of President Carter's decision to curtail the use of plutonium, a key component of nuclear bombs.

France has developed a new system for enriching uranium which the government here claims makes it secure against use in nuclear bombs. It is not yet developed for commercial use.

Egypt, Iraq, Syria and other Arab officials said.

To swell an occasion

There are words that make history, and there are words mouthed to suit a fleeting fancy or swell an occasion.

On his first encounter with President Carter, the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Begin, pledged that his country would do everything humanly possible to bring about a real peace with its neighbours. If he is true to his words, then history was made on the lawn of the White House Tuesday, and the problems of the Middle East will fade away into the twilight.

Yet every indication is that Mr. Begin is doing everything possible to marshal the forces of the American Jewish community not to serve the goal of peace but to buttress his own intransigence, not to go along with Mr. Carter in seeking a viable solution, a reasonable and just settlement in the Middle East, but to glorify his own dreams of a triumphant Israel imposing its conditions on its neighbours, seeking not their good will but their forced compliance to its terms.

Unless Mr. Begin has turned over a new leaf overnight, we have good reason to entertain misgivings about the authenticity of the sentiments that moved him to say what he did. Is Mr. Begin a man thirsting for peace, or for the economic benefits of normalised relations with the Arab World? Does "real peace" mean any more to him than squeezing the Arabs for all they are worth and grabbing international and American guarantees for permanent and expanded borders for a Jewish homeland while denying the Palestinians the right to a homeland of their own? We suspect his meaning does not go beyond that.

Is he ready to do everything humanly possible to allow the Palestinians what he has fought to make possible for the children of Israel? Mr. Begin is directly responsible for the life of dispersal, statelessness and alienation to which the Palestinians have been condemned. Is he prepared to undo that wrong, even in part, or is he only capable of commiserating with the sufferings of his own people. There is only limited virtue in that.

Does giving refuge to a boat-load of Vietnamese refugees represent the full scope of his willingness to identify with the plight of a people without a homeland? Will Mr. Begin make a sacrifice for peace where it really counts? Will he give back to the people his country has dispossessed even part of what was once theirs?

We suspect not. We suspect that Mr. Begin's words were merely a facile form of self-flattery, words full of promise signifying precious little indeed.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Jordanian dailies Tuesday commented on the visit of His Majesty the King to our Gulf states which starts Wednesday, and on the Carter-Begin talks in Washington.

AL DUSTOUR, in an editorial entitled "Gulf tour", said that the King's two-day visit to the Arab Gulf states of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates is a continuation of the line he began towards developing a coordinated Arab stand capable of facing all eventualities.

It is a realistic view, the paper said, which treats all the Arab countries as confrontation states without any regard for their geographical positions. For such a view would permit the Gulf states to actively participate in realising the required Arab stand, and to carry out their share in the required Arab responsibility.

The paper concluded that Jordan has always had a clarity of vision and was honest in communicating such a vision to the rest of the Arabs and in telling them what to expect. Thus the King would openly tell the Arab Gulf leaders of what is needed in order to create a solid and a balanced Arab stand.

AL RA'I said that the Carter-Begin talks would start in a foggy atmosphere of Israeli propaganda on a Middle East peace plan to be announced by Mr. Begin.

The paper added that the Arabs are concerned with the stand to be taken by the U.S. after the announcement of such a plan. The paper noted that in order for Israel to get more American aid, by gaining the sympathy of the Americans, the Israeli government announced a new devaluation of the Israeli pound and a 25 per cent increase in the price of foodstuffs and petrol at the same time as Mr. Begin's visit to the USA.

The paper added that just

before Mr. Begin started his visit to the USA the lights went out in New York and the "law of the jungle" prevailed -- for looting took place and losses are estimated to have reached hundreds of millions of dollars.

The paper ended by saying that it is as if fate had caused the damage in the electricity generator plant in order to remind the Americans that the Arabs are the ones who own the energy which fuels, electricity generators.

AL SHAB, in an editorial entitled "Carter and the Polish Immigrant" said that the Carter-Begin talks were preceded by a great deal of publicity due to the possible consequences of such talks which would affect not only the Middle East but the whole world. The paper continued that President Carter does not need to discuss at length and argue the point of how to achieve a peace settlement because the Middle East conflict has already been adequately discussed and a plan to resolve it has already been prepared on which the Geneva conference was based.

What is needed, the paper said, is simply to translate such a plan into the realm of reality. This means, the paper said, that U.N. Resolution 242 should be implemented.

The paper warned that President Carter should be reminded that American silence over Israeli occupation and its disregard for the Security Council's resolution, which caused the October 1973 war, would also lead to a new war; just as the laxity of the U.N. in implementing the 1974 partition plan -- and the injustice of that plan, led to the outbreak of the 1956 war.

The paper concluded by saying that it desires to remind President Carter

The Kremlin confirms poor consumer service

MOSCOW, July 19 (R). — The long-suffering Soviet consumer today received official Kremlin confirmation that there are still serious shortcomings in the standards of service and supplies offered by the nation's shops.

Government ministries and trading organisations were rebuffed for the situation by the Communist Party's Central Committee and the Council of Ministers.

An official resolution said service in shops was not up to the standards expected by customers. There were shortages of some goods on the shelves even though there were enough of them in the warehouses, while shoppers still encountered "inattentive and disrespectful" sales staff when they did find what they wanted.

Many factories continued to turn out goods for which there was no demand, and the machine-building industries were failing to keep wholesalers and retailers supplied with the delivery vehicles and equipment they needed, the Council and Central Committee said.

The resolution, summarised in the front page of Pravda

and other main newspapers, called on the Soviet Trade Ministry and other government and party bodies to improve organisation of the consumer goods network, raise standards of services and pay greater attention to selecting the right staff.

Although today's resolution stressed Kremlin concern for the problem, it made clear that no raising of overall economic plan targets for consumer goods or increased investments were envisaged.

"It's largely exhortation," an economic expert at one Western embassy commented. The resolution followed official admissions in recent months that supplies of meat and dairy products have still not recovered from the difficulties posed by a poor grain harvest in 1975.

Last year Kremlin Chief Leonid Brezhnev took the entire consumer goods industry to task for not keeping promises of more and better supplies. He highlighted its failings by disclosing in a speech that the Soviet Union produced a mountain of 700 million pairs of shoes in a single year -- but still produced too few of the fashionable high-quality shoes consumers wanted.

Iran sinks into major electricity crisis

TEHRAN, July 19 (AFP). — An electricity shortage, an annoyance up to a few weeks ago, has turned into a major crisis.

Outside, chaotic traffic pours through ill-lighted streets while inside people swelter uncomfortably in the 40-degree centigrade heat wave, deprived of electricity powered refrigerators and air conditioning.

They cannot even watch television for very long. Power cuts have restricted it to three hours nightly.

But there is far worse. Iran's young industrial factories are running at only two-thirds capacity. Many of them mushroomed into existence after the 1973 oil crisis which made oil-rich Iran fabulously wealthy and ambitious to start building up vast industries. Factories grew so fast they outstripped energy and power supplies.

Hope is now placed by factory owners in the oil rich Abadan area -- Iran's Texas -- on two new nuclear power stations and hydro-electric projects.

What has caused this dramatic breakdown in a country which since 1973 has been earning \$20,000 million annually from its oil?

Mainly its over ambitious industrial programme, which astonished experts when it was first announced.

Iran is at present suffering from a power shortage estimated at 700 megawatts and it has planned a massive nuclear power grid which should easily cover this -- but only in the near future.

For instance, nuclear power stations at Bouchehr being built by West Germany will produce 2,400 megawatts in 1980. The French-built power stations will come onstream in 1982 and a further two in 1984.

Iranian power officials were hoping to bridge this "gap" between conventional power plants and nuclear power by putting into service last year a hydro-electric station on the huge "Reza Shah the Great" Dam across the River Karun, north of Ahvaz in the Zagros Mountains.

Four turbines were supposed to provide the country with 1,000 megawatts capable of feeding basic industry needs and easing Tehran requirements. But they only produce 90 megawatts and the French firm which constructed them, Alsthom, is the target of an enormous national campaign denouncing it.

Working in 50-degree heat in concrete, coffin-like enclosures to adjust a faulty lubrication system, 40 technicians sent from France are hurrying to adjust the giant engines. The Iranian press follows their every movement.

Alsthom sources feel they have been unjustly condemned as the firm cannot be held responsible for the year-and-a-half delay in construction of the dam itself.

But the press, in daily vengeful editorials, claims that the French firm, and Western companies in general, are quite happy to sign wonderful contracts with Iran, but then do not bother to honor them. The press has demanded that Iranian officials seek damages and interest from defaulting companies for losses incurred by industry, agriculture and the Iranian population.

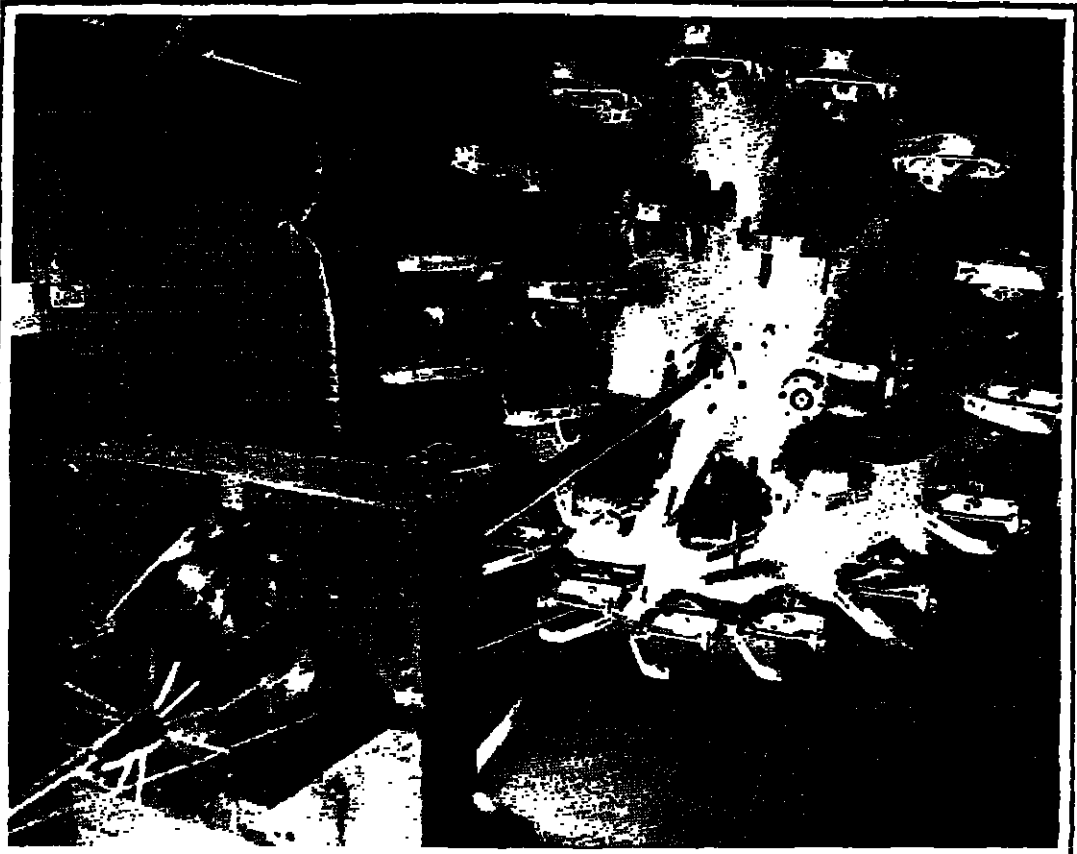
Especially worrying for French and rival Western firms based in Tehran is the idea recently developed by the Iranian press that it would be in Iran's interest to turn over much of its industrial development to non-Western technological powers, starting with Asian countries such as Japan, India and South Korea.

Callaghan seems assured of confidence vote Wednesday

LONDON, July 19 (AFP). — Prime Minister James Callaghan appeared assured of being able to pull through in Wednesday's debate on confidence in his government's economic policies, political commentators said here.

But the Labour government's new policy -- so far only vaguely known and only officially to be expounded on Wednesday -- is already under attack by threatened wageclaimants.

Following now clearly-established procedure Mr. Callaghan



GLASS FIBRES LINK TODAY WITH THE FUTURE -- Optical fibres, strands of glass-like material as thin as human hair which use light instead of electricity to transmit thousands of telephone calls or television programmes simultaneously, are being drawn and wound round a strengthening core in the factory of a British company in eastern England.

Greece files case of Aegean oil rights with World Court

THE HAGUE, July 19 (R). — Greece yesterday filed written arguments with the World Court here on the question of the court's right to settle a dispute with Turkey over oil exploration rights in the Aegean Sea.

No details of the Greek case were given. Turkey has until April 24, 1978 to submit its arguments.

No details of the Greek case were given. Turkey has until April 24, 1978 to submit its arguments.

Greece took Turkey to the court in August last year but Turkey maintained that the court had no jurisdiction to settle the dispute.

Last September, the court rejected a Greek request for a temporary ban on Turkish oil exploration in the disputed areas and decided that written proceedings should firstly

concern the court's jurisdiction. Greece claims that its more than 3,000 islands dotting the Aegean Sea are entitled to a continental shelf. But Turkey argues that its Anatolian Coast has a continental shelf extending midway into the Aegean.

Relations between the two NATO countries reached a critical point last summer when Turkey sent an exploration vessel to carry out seismic soundings in the disputed waters.

Greece asked the court to set the boundaries of the two countries' continental shelf in the disputed area according to the principles of international law. Experts from the two countries have already held rounds of talks in Bern, London and Paris this year, without concrete results.

Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis said in Athens last month that Greece was prepared to negotiate in good faith with Turkey to find a solution to their disputes if the new Turkish government was ready to do the same.

Saudi Arabia grants loan to S. Yemen

AMMAN, July 19 (R). — Saudi Arabia yesterday signed an agreement with South Yemen granting the latter a long term loan of 50 million Saudi riyals (about £8.5 million) Riyadh Radio reported.

The loan, granted by the Saudi Development Fund, will be used to finance the first stage of a housing project consisting of 5,600 units in Mansoura Area, the radio said.

The first stage, wholly financed by the fund, comprises 20 buildings with 640 apartments as well as public, educational and commercial facilities, the radio added. The agreement was signed in Riyadh by the deputy chairman of the fund and the under secretary of the South Yemeni Ministry of Housing, which is undertaking the project, the radio said.

This is the second loan granted by the fund to South Yemen this year. The first, for 70 million riyals (about £11.7 million), was granted on June 15 for the financing of an electric power project.

Romania may again get "most favoured nation" status in U.S. trade

WASHINGTON, July 19 (R). — The U.S. Congress will probably allow Romania another year of favourable tariff treatment, specialists said here today.

The specialists on the House of Representatives Trade Subcommittee said the outlook appeared bright for continuing "most favoured nation" treatment, under which the same tariff rates are levied on Ro-

manian goods as on those from non-communist nations. Recently, President Carter proposed waiving freedom of immigration requirements in the 1974 trade act for a third year to continue the current arrangement with Romania.

Unless the House or the Senate vetoes the proposal, Romania will continue to enjoy these rates.

At a subcommittee hearing today administration witnesses, a group of congressmen and industry representatives supported the waiver extension.

Dollar falls to new lows

FRANKFURT, West Germany, July 19 (R). — The U.S. Dollar opened at its lowest level for more than four years on the West German foreign exchange here today, dealers said.

Today's rate was the lowest since July 16 last year when it touched a bottom point of 4.81.

It was changing hands this morning at 2,2640 marks.

The dollar has been under pressure for weeks on the world's currency exchange markets, largely because of largely because of large U.S. trade deficits.

Sterling declined with the dollar, trading at 3.895 marks compared with its overnight rate of 3.920 marks.

It was the first time since last November that the British currency had slumped below the 3.90 mark level.

The dollar also fell to its lowest level for more than a year against the French franc on the Paris money market.

It traded nervously at 4.84125 compared with the overnight 4.85425.

Gold rose \$1 amid investment rumour

LONDON, July 19 (AFP). — Gold perked up anew on the London mart today as the dollar and sterling lost further to the Deutsche mark and other continental European currencies.

The metal rose \$1 to \$144.875 an ounce amid rumours that oil countries would ask for payment in gold, or invest in gold lagos. The upward pressure on billion was helped by keen interest on Far East markets, according to some dealers.

As the U.S. and British currencies remained under pressure, it was reported from Paris that the French franc reached 2.138 to the mark, after the Banque De France had kept it to 2.130 yesterday.

Bravo platform resumes pumping

STAVANGER, Norway, July 19 (R). — Production has begun again at the Bravo platform in the Ekofisk Field following a blow out three months ago, the Norwegian oil directorate said yesterday.

Five wells were expected to resume within eight to 10 days, the spokesman added.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian dinars for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency.

Saudi riyal	82.5	83.0
Lebanese pound	107.5	108.0
Syrian pound	80.9	81.2
Iraqi dinar	940	945
Kuwaiti dinar	1137	1141
Egyptian pound	467	477
Libyan dinar	740	750
UAE dirham	83.5	84.5
U.K. sterling	588	575
U.S. dollar	330	332
German mark	140.3	140.7
French franc	67	67.3
Swiss franc	132.3	132.7
Italian lira (for every 100)	34.7	37.8

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London Foreign Exchange Market yesterday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	=	1.8100 / 02	U.S. dollars
One dollar	=	2.2670 / 80	West German mark
		2.3990 / 2.4000	Dutch guilders
		35.30 / 33	French francs
		4.8350 / 60	Italian lire
		881.65 / 85	Japanese yen
		263.90 / 264.05	Swedish crowns
		4.3175 / 205	Norwegian crowns
		5.2005 / 55	Danish crowns
		5.912050	

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices pushed ahead in heavy trading Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange, where the industrial average gained nearly nine points.

Analysts said buyers were encouraged to turn back to the front rank stocks by strong second quarter earnings reports from such leading companies as IBM and Dupont.

Advances outnumbered declines at the close by a wide 967 to 530 margin. Chemicals were very strong: Dupont gained four points and Monsanto advanced 1-7/8 at 69-7/8. Aluminum shares were also steady: Reynolds Metals advanced one point at 39-1/8. Oil and computer shares advanced slightly.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 919.44, a gain of 8.84 points; Transp at 238.56, a gain of 2.10; utilities at 118.36, a gain of 0.73. 30,740,000 shares changed hands -- a record for the year -- of which 5,320,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Government bonds drifted lower Tuesday on lack of buying interest and against a background of political and economic uncertainty, dealers said.

Longs were up to 1/4 point lower while shorts eased by up to 3/8 point in places. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 3.2 at 447.3.

Leading equities eased by up to 8p, but gold shares were generally higher.

Among U.S. stocks IBM rose 3-1/8 point and General Motors gained 1/2 point. Canadians tended unchanged to easier with Alcan up. Brascan was down 1/16 and Inco was down 1/8 point.

Rank lost 8p, while BAT dropped 5p. Fisons, Tate and Lyle, EMI, and Hawker Siddeley each shed 4p, while Courtaulds, Boots, Glaxo, GKN, and Tube eased 2p.

Oils were narrowly mixed and banks erased earlier gains.

Price of gold closed in London Tuesday at \$145.5/oz.

OPEC plans meet on special fund

VIENNA, July 18 (R). — Finance Ministers from the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will meet in Vienna on Aug. 4 for a twice-yearly conference, OPEC officials said today.

The Finance Ministers supervise allocations for developing countries from a \$1.6 billion special fund set up by OPEC last year. OPEC has so far sanctioned aid for 50 countries.

OPEC sources said the special fund would be the main subject for discussion for the finance ministers who last met in Vienna in February.

The ministers would also consider other financial aspects relating to OPEC business. In recent weeks, OPEC governments have suffered heavy money losses due to the falling value of the dollar, which is used for calculating oil prices. The sources said there were no plans to reactivate an OPEC scheme to switch to other currencies or International Monetary Fund special drawing rights. Such a plan was mooted two years ago but was abandoned.

Japan announces \$1.49 billion visible trade surplus for June

TOKYO, July 19 (R). — Japan today announced a massive \$1,490 million visible trade surplus for June despite increased foreign criticism of its export drive.

Despite repeated government warnings to businessmen that Japan faced international isolation unless the export surge was curbed, the preliminary surplus for June was more than double May's \$640 million.

Today's figures announced by the Finance Ministry showed that Japan achieved a re-

cord \$6,640 million visible surplus during the first half of this year. This compared with an overall surplus of \$9,900 million in 1976, a record for a full year.

The visible trade surplus for June was partially offset by a \$630 million deficit on invisible trade which includes shipping and tourism. In June 1976 the invisibles deficit was \$507 million dollars.

Japan always points to its habitual invisible trade deficit when arguing against large export curbs.

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INVITATION TO CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY OF RAILWAY HOPPER WAGONS

The Ministry of Transport / Aqaba Railway Corporation invite tenders to submit their offers for the supply of 210 hopper wagons as specified in the tender documents which can be obtained from Aqaba Railway Corporation offices at Amman railway station during official office hours at a cost of JD 100 unreturnable.

Interested contractors should submit their offers in a plain, closed and sealed envelope marked: "Tender for the supply of hopper wagons" and addressed to:

Director General,
Aqaba Railway Corporation,
P.O. Box 6686,
Amman / Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Offers should reach Aqaba Railway Corporation offices not later than 12.00 noon, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 1977.

Director General ARC,
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Tel. 42787 for interview.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Greece, Albania agree to air link

* ATHENS, July 19 (R). — Greece and Albania have agreed to establish a regular air link between Athens and Tirana, a Foreign Ministry announcement said yesterday. The announcement said the agreement was signed in Tirana last Saturday by Greece's Ambassador to Albania, Mr. Elestathios Mitsopoulos and the Albanian Under Secretary for Communications, Mr. Lambl Lekaj. Olympic Airways, the state-owned Greek airline, already operates flights to Ioannina and Corfu and will probably extend these to Tirana.

British Steel scores £95 million loss

* LONDON, July 19 (AFP). — British Steel Corporation, the state group making about 90 per cent of Britain's steel, recorded a £95 million loss in the year to March, against a previous loss of £255 million, the annual report showed today. The group, suffering from sluggish demand and inflation, is likely to record a much bigger loss next time unless business picks up, the corporation's Chairman Sir Charles Vigliani said.

Kuwait, Yugoslavia discuss cooperation

* BELGRADE, July 19 (R). — Kuwait Oil Minister Abdul Murtaleb Al Kazimi arrived here yesterday for talks with Yugoslavia on expanded bilateral economic cooperation. Mr. Kazimi and Mr. Janko Smole, Yugoslav government member without portfolio and President of the joint Yugoslav-Kuwaiti Economic Committee, will discuss concrete forms of bilateral cooperation in energy, officials said.

Experts meet on tanker safety

* LONDON, July 19 (R). — Experts from more than 30 countries began a five-day meeting here yesterday to prepare for high-level conferences called for by United States President Jimmy Carter on improving oil tanker safety. Proposals will go on to a final diplomatic level conference here next February of heads of the inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation. The Carter administration called for this conference after a spate of tanker accidents in U.S. waters last winter.

Irrigation brings colour to the barren desert lands of Wadi Rum

By Lina Gress
Special to the Jordan Times

Irrigation has given the desert, such as the world-renowned Wadi Rum with its rapturous sandstone, a new green colour.

At the foot of the sandstone, the 7,000 dunums of the Qa' Disi desert have been converted into a very fertile area yielding several crops a year of cereals and vegetables, as well as forage and industrial crops. This has been made possible by irrigating the virgin mudflats with sprinklers. The addition of sand and much deep ploughing also ensures greater fertility.

Site Manager Aldo Giovannelli, working for the Italian contractor Bonifica, explained

that water for the project comes from 10 artesian wells, in the area. They have been drilled in the sandstone to a depth of 400 metres with a diameter of 40 cms.

The water level -- or "water table" -- of the wells starts at 70 metres below ground level, and geological surveys reveal that some water layers reach a depth of 1,260 metres -- up to an impervious layer of granite.

The output of each well is estimated at 50 million cubic metres per year. There is no possibility of exhausting the supply, Mr. Giovannelli stated.

The rich source of the water is unknown, especially as the quantity of rainfall in the area is very scarce. Besides, the drilled water is very pure

and potable with a salinity of 200 parts to every million.

Mr. Giovannelli explained that Bonifica has been working in the Wadi Rum area since 1968, when it started work on a 120-dunum experimental farm.

The company then started planning the present 7,000-dunum project in Qa' Disi in 1973. A power house, pumping station and sprinkler irrigation network were set up in 1974.

From 1975, the Ministry of Agriculture, with the technical assistance of Bonifica, started to cultivate wheat, barley, alfalfa, soya beans and vegetables.

The yield, for what was originally a virgin area, proved to be considerable: Wheat reached 4.5 tons per hectare; alfalfa 135 tons, and barley 4.4 tons. The same results were attained with vegetables.

A major factor contributing to the success of the project was the cooperation of the bedouin settlers in the area.

Before the project came into being, there were about 20 bedouin families in the area. Now there are about 250 families, who have built houses and schools and are fast adapting themselves to farm life in what is becoming a rich agricultural area.

TESTING CAUSES POWER CUTS HERE

AMMAN (JNA). — Successive power cuts in the capital this month have been the result of experiments the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) is carrying out on the two new 33 MW generating units at Husseini Thermal Power Station prior to the authority taking delivery from the Italian suppliers, sources at JEA said Tuesday.

Experiments on the two units, which started July 1, will last six weeks, sources added. It is expected that other power failures will take place during that period, they added.



Minister of Communications Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh signs a contract to improve Amman's telephone network at the Telecommunications Corporation Tuesday. Mr. Gupta, Chairman of the contractor, Indian Telephone Industries, sits to his left.

Youth meeting urges African sports council to boycott Israel

BAGHDAD, July 19 (JNA). — The Fifth Conference of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports recommended to the Arab League to urge the African Higher Council for Youth and Sport to exclude Israel from participation in sports tournaments it organises or in which its members participate.

The conference, which ended its meetings here yesterday evening, also recommended the establishment of a higher council for youth and sports, an Arab fund to support sports activities and a seven-member committee to determine its capital and the shares of its members.

The conference decided to hold the fourth Arab Youth Festival in Morocco and the next conference of Arab ministers of youth and sports in the North Yemeni capital of Sana'a.

Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, Jordan's delegate at the conference held talks with his Arab opposite numbers at the conference on ways to improve and support sports and youth activities.

To upgrade Amman's overworked exchanges Indian firm wins major telephone contract

AMMAN, (JNA). — An agreement to upgrade Amman's overworked telephone exchanges was signed between the Telecommunications Corporation and an Indian firm, Indian Telephone Industries (ITI), Tuesday.

Under the agreement, ITI which is specialised in the production of telephone exchanges similar to the British-made ones in Amman, will send a team of experts to implement the JD 130,000 project.

This contract could be looked upon as one of the fruitful results of His Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to India in 1976, Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation Shahed Ismail said Tuesday.

Mr. Ismail told reporters that the project includes the upgrading of the quality of each exchange on its own as well as that of exchanges now working within the multi-exchange area of Amman.

The project, to be completed by the end of 1977, will put an end to a string of com-

plaints by the public on deficiencies in the telephone system, he said. These are due to the fact that the step-by-step automatic telephone exchanges now in operation here are working under very strenuous and heavy traffic conditions much beyond their original capacity, Mr. Ismail said.

The Telecommunications Co-

poration, Mr. Ismail concluded, hopes that closer cooperation will be established in the future with ITI, in particular after the present visit of its Chairman Mr. Gupta, to Jordan.

The agreement was signed for Jordan by Minister of Communications Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and for ITI by Mr. Gupta.

Seminar opens on ways of teaching biology

IRBID, (JNA). — A seminar on how to develop biology teaching methods in the Arab World started at Yarmuk University Tuesday.

The seminar, organised by the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation of the Arab League (AECSCO), will discuss a number of research papers on biology.

The Director of Science at AECSCO told participants that the seminar is the beginning of cooperation between AECSCO and Yarmuk University.

The organisation's project to draw up a uniform method for teaching biology throughout the Arab World has been underway since 1972. Most stages have already been achieved, he stated.

The present seminar is one of three. The others will be held in Cairo and Baghdad.

The two-week seminar at Yarmuk University will be continued with a similar one of the same duration at the University of Jordan.



The Qa' Disi area shows its desert face...



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Back to all his former posts Peking wallposters announce Teng's rehabilitation

PEKING, July 19 (Agencies) — Wallposters appeared in Peking today announcing the rehabilitation of former Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, the moderate Chinese leader toppled from power last year.

A 20-metre poster was pasted up in one street declaring that the veteran revolutionary had won back all his former posts.

The poster, signed by the Number One Bureau of the Ministry for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries, declared in a slogan:

"Warmly welcome and support the Central decision to appoint Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping to the posts of party vice chairman, vice premier of the State Council, vice chairman of the Military Affairs Commission and chief-of-staff."

A bystander was asked whether the poster had been officially sanctioned. He replied in English: "This is very good news, we had been expecting it for a long time."

Asked about the posters appearing today an official spokesman at the Foreign Affairs Ministry said: "No comment."

Mr. Teng, 76, was dismissed in April, 1976, during the

bitter power struggle that followed Premier Chou En-lai's death. He had been generally expected to succeed Mr. Chou but was toppled by radical opponents.

There have been signs in recent days that he was about to be rehabilitated and indications of a top-level gathering of the Chinese leadership.

If his rehabilitation is officially confirmed it will be the second time the tough, blunt-speaking Mr. Teng has been brought back from the political wilderness.

He was first toppled during the tumultuous Cultural Revolution of the 1960s. He returned in 1973 and rose to become China's third most powerful leader after Mr. Chou and Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Last January some posters here described Mr. Teng as the man who fought hardest to defeat the "gang of four" — among them Chairman Mao's widow, Chiang Ching.

If his comeback is confirmed, it will highlight the extraordinary political convulsions of the past 18 months. One year ago Mr. Teng was the target of a heated national campaign and appeared to have been condemned to political death.

But his grassroots popularity has never been doubted by analysts here. He has a reputation as an outstanding administrator.

After Mr. Chou's death in January, 1976, Mr. Teng was regarded as his logical successor, but the left prompted the fierce campaign to block his appointment.

He was again branded a "capitalist road" and charged with "revisionism".

Mr. Teng was sacked from all his posts and the premier's office was given to the then little-known Mr. Hua Kuo-feng.

The appointment of Mr. Hua as Chairman of the Central Committee and the party's Military Commission was also made public, at the beginning of October last year, through wall posters in Peking. Official confirmation came only three days later.

A Chinese official last week declared that Mr. Teng would definitely be rehabilitated by the end of July, and earlier a Chinese source had said the former leader was already rehabilitated de facto since he had made a major speech at a national scientific conference held at the end of last month and the beginning of this.



CAPTIVE ETHIOPIANS - A group of Ethiopian soldiers guarded by guerrillas of the Eritrean liberation movement after the fall of the city of Keren. The Eritreans captured several hundred Ethiopian regulars. Keren, the regional capital to the north of Asmara, the capital of the Province of Eritrea, was reportedly taken on July 9 in a major thrust forward by Eritrean forces. (AP wirephoto).

Lebanese military court sentences Norwegian to 6 months' imprisonment

BEIRUT, July 19 (R) — A military tribunal today sentenced a Norwegian to six months imprisonment and a 500 Lebanese pounds (£100) fine on charges of possessing and transporting explosives.

It acquitted Mr. Lars Gule, 22, of charges of trying to smuggle the explosives out of Lebanon for subversive activities abroad.

Mr. Gule who can appeal to the Higher Military Court, testified at the opening hearing on July 5 that he wanted to carry out a mission in Israel for a Palestinian commando organization.

Mr. Gule was arrested at Beirut airport on May 6 as he was about to board a plane to Frankfurt, West Germany. Officials said customs men had found 650 grms. of plastic explosives hidden in a book in his luggage, and a number of detonators.

He told the court at the first hearing that he planned

to carry out a mission for a Palestinian commando organization — the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

But he said he would not have planted bombs in Lebanon or any Arab country.

He said he would have chosen a target in Israel to stage a bombing on June 5, the anniversary of the outbreak of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Mr. Gule said he had never undertaken any bombing operation.

He admitted receiving \$1,000 from the front as the price of an air ticket and to cover expenses. But he would not have taken any further sum from the front.

He said he had been planning to return home to get a new passport. He would then have left for Geneva where he would have stayed a few days before going to Israel.

Defence Council Camille Hovayek said Mr. Gule was motivated by a creed and had been defending a deprived people.

He described Mr. Gule as a young man lacking in experience and easily influenced by others as a result of a disease from which he had suffered while very young and for which he was still being treated.

Beirut's Al Muharrer stops publication

BEIRUT, July 19 (R) — The leftist Lebanese daily newspaper Al Muharrer announced today that it would cease publication from tomorrow. A brief announcement on the front page said: "Al Muharrer apologises to its readers and announces that it will cease publication as from tomorrow until further notice." There was no indication of the reasons which led to the decision by the paper, which started publishing in 1962 and which had close connections with the Palestinian commando movement. The newspaper's publisher, Mr. Walid Abu Zahr, recently started the publication in Paris of an Arabic weekly magazine Al Watan Al Arabi. Lebanese editors have recently opposed a new press law passed by the government of Dr. Selim Al Hoss.

U.S. senators say AWACS sale to Iran endangers Western security

WASHINGTON, July 19 (R) — U.S. senators said yesterday the proposed sale of sophisticated radar planes to Iran could endanger Western security.

Democratic Sen. John Culver told a Senate foreign relations sub-committee that if the Iranian government changed overnight there was no assurance that a successor would be friendly to the United States.

If a single crewman hijacks a plane or sells secrets to Soviet agents, the USSR could reap an intelligence bonanza which may endanger our own air force and the defence of Western Europe," he said.

The Defence Department wants to sell seven Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft to Iran for a total of \$1.2 billion. Congress has until Aug. 5 to veto the

Guiringaud: France gave Chad military aid to fight Toubou rebels

ABIDJAN, July 19 (Agencies) — French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud said here yesterday that France had given military aid to Chad to help it in fighting rebels in the country's northern Tibesti Desert.

Mr. de Guiringaud, who is visiting the Ivory Coast on the first leg of a three-nation African tour stressed, however, that French troops were not involved.

"We have replied to the appeal of the N'djamena government by providing logistic means in the framework of new cooperation accords," he told reporters.

Chad is fighting a protracted battle with Toubou rebels in the Tibesti and recently charged that the rebels were receiving aid from the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

It also alleged that forces of the Jamahiriyah were occupying part of the Tibesti.

M. de Guiringaud left here for Accra, Ghana, today on the second leg of his tour.

He had arrived in the Ivory Coast on Monday and has had two meetings with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

From Ghana he will go on to the Cameroun.

Andreotti, Giscard in Paris talks

PARIS, July 19 (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti today began talks with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on the future of Europe and East-West détente, now going through a period of uncertainties. The two leaders were also discussing enlargement of the European Common Market, and the first elections to a European assembly, due next year. At his meeting with the French leader, Signor Andreotti is expected to outline the pact reached last Friday by the leading Italian political parties which brings the Communists nearer to government than they have been for 30 years.

Non-aligned news pool provides balance, says Indonesia's Malik

JAKARTA, July 19 (R) — Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik said today that a proposed non-aligned news pool should not be regarded as an attempt to confront other international news services.

It should be viewed as an effort to remind journalists all over the world of the need for balanced and responsible reporting.

KHADDAM LEAVES FOR INDONESIA

DAMASCUS, July 19 (R) — Syria's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam left here for Jakarta today on a five-day official visit to Indonesia. Official sources here said Mr. Khaddam's talks with his Indonesian counterpart Adam Malik were expected to cover the Middle East situation and bilateral relations.

China calms Albanian attacks "adventurism"

By Georges Bianchi

PEKING, July 19 (AFP) — China this weekend replied indirectly but firmly to recent attacks by the Albanian Labour Party of its foreign policy. Accused by Tirana of "opportunism", it responded with the anathema of "adventurism".

The official Chinese party newspaper, the People's Daily, reaffirmed the validity of the late Mao Tse-tung's position under which the Third World is the "main force in the world struggle against imperialism and hegemonism".

Meanwhile, in an article attacking the Soviet Union but aimed particularly at Albania, the New China News Agency on Sunday accused the USSR of dividing the African countries into two categories, "progressive" and "reactionary" — i.e., a classification similar to that adopted by the Albanian party.

On July 7 the Albanian party daily Zeri-i-Popullit published a lengthy editorial denouncing the foreign policy of China — without actually naming it — and especially the Maoist "three worlds" theory of superpowers, developed countries and Third World nations.

This dividing up of the world was described as "anti-Leninist" and criticised for "putting the struggle of the people and the proletariat on an anti-Marxist, revisionist course" resulting in "confusion and disorganisation among the revolutionary forces".

The People's Daily said on Friday that Mao's theory of 1946: "All reactionaries are paper tigers" was still valid. The

"revolutionary peoples have nothing to fear from imperialism and reactionaries," the article said, affirming that these were "paper tigers" that would finally be "overthrown".

The Albanian Embassy in Peking went to the trouble of widely circulating copies of the Zeri-i-Popullit editorial, and this was considered as an out-and-out "provocation" in diplomatic circles here.

Asked by AFP about the reasons for such a polemic at this time, Albanian officials minimised the disagreement between the Albanian and Chinese parties.

They emphasised that the views expressed by Zeri-i-Popullit were not new but the Albanian Labour Party felt it was more necessary than ever to "state once again its position at a time when ideological confusion reigns all over the world." This reply could well imply "including Peking".

Just after the Albanian Embassy circulated the Zeri-i-Popullit editorial in Peking, Chinese Vice Premier Chi Teng-kwei met a delegation from Albanian Radio and Television accompanied by the Albanian chargé d'affaires.

An Albanian diplomat described the meeting as "very friendly" and said the ideological question raised by Zeri-i-Popullit had not been brought up.

He denied rumours that the 100-odd Albanian scholarship students in various institutes and universities would leave China for good at the end of the current school year. "Like our students in Korea, they're leaving on vacation and will come back in the autumn," he said.

assures," the foreign minister said. "For a developing country, however, they are the most practical and effective ones to take in order to express its protest against indiscriminate biased reporting."

Mr. Malik said a pool of non-aligned press agencies, proposed at the non-aligned summit meeting in Colombo last year, would be an attempt to improve dissemination of reports of positive developments and achievements which were being denied publicity by the established press.

Dutchman claims he burnt millionaire Menten's home

AMSTERDAM, July 19 (R) — Police said today that a 53-year old Dutchman has admitted setting fire to the luxury home of millionaire art collector Pieter Menten, who is on trial here for the alleged mass killings of Jews during the Nazi occupation of the Ukraine.

The 20-room mansion in the village of Blaricum, east of Amsterdam, was set ablaze when a Molotov cocktail was thrown on the thatched roof on Sunday night. The house and a large part of Mr. Menten's collection were seriously damaged.

Police Capt. Rob Bordenwijk identified the man only by his initials. He said he went to police in Rotterdam last night and claimed he had set the house ablaze.

The man, who was transferred to Amsterdam police, said he drove to Blaricum from south Holland and stopped on the way to fill a bottle with petrol at a filling station.

He told detectives he tossed the bottle on the roof of Mr. Menten's house and then drove off without waiting to

see what happened. Capt. Bordenwijk said the man who admitted starting the fire suffered during World War II and had spent 18 months in Dachau concentration camp. He had received psychiatric treatment in the past and should be "regarded as a war victim," the captain added.

He said that the man claimed to set fire to a publishing firm at Ridderkerk, near Rotterdam, two years ago. The company was due to print Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf.

Mr. Menten, 75, went on trial in May on charges of taking part in the mass killings of Jews in 1941. The trial resumes on Aug. 25 and Mr. Menten, a diabetic, is held in a prison hospital at Scheveningen, near the Hague.

Police earlier said eight attic rooms were gutted in the fire and about six bedrooms on the first floor were badly damaged. The blaze destroyed a large part of Mr. Menten's collection, which included water-colour paintings, silver, glassware, furniture and carpets. Full details of the collection are not known.

One year after the grand show Montreal lives to regret hosting Olympics

MONTREAL, July 19 (R) — On the first anniversary of the billion dollar Olympics, Montrealers are not being allowed to bask in the memories of any nostalgia.

The pageantry, the visitors and sporting performances are lost in the bad dream of paying the bill.

It will be 1997 before citizens finish paying their \$200 million share of the cost. For the next 20 years, property owners will be getting bills clearly marked "Special Olympic Tax". This amounts, at the moment, to as much as a 13 per cent increase in property taxes and 20 per cent in commercial taxes.

The Province of Quebec is shouldering the rest of the deficit and hopes to have it paid off within seven years with a special 0.4 per cent cigarette and tobacco tax and income from a lottery.

And for all this it seems likely that the huge Olympic stadium will never be completed.

It joins two hotels in limbo. Their future is clouded because they were not completed in time for the Olympics and there are now twice as many hotel rooms as are needed in the current business slump. There are suggestions that it will be cheaper to leave the

Hyatt Regency as an empty shell when the bare structure is finished later this year rather than operate it at a loss.

Work on the giant Holiday Inn was halted months ago, the developer unable to organise financing. Its skeleton and the cranes stand as testimony right in the city centre to the over-ambition of politicians, businessmen and construction workers.

French architect Roger Taillibert's design had called for a 150 metre high tower leaning over the Olympic stadium. Its main purpose would have been to house a parachute-like roof, retracted in fine weather but lowered for rain and snow.

Because of repeated construction disputes, the tower was unfinished in time for the games. There would be plenty of time for that afterwards, the politicians said.

Estimated cost of completion is \$145 million — on top of the \$1.41 billion already poured into that and other installations.

Now, having visited four other stadiums with retractable roofs in the United States, Quebec provincial officials have decided it is not worth adding one to the Montreal stadium. So the dream of giving the city the means to compete



MENTEN'S MANSION — Picture taken in the early hours of Monday morning of the burning mansion of Dutch millionaire Pieter Menten. The villa is in Blaricum, a village to the east of Amsterdam. Police said on Tuesday that a Dutchman claimed to have set the mansion ablaze with a Molotov cocktail. Millionaire Menten is currently on trial in Amsterdam for the alleged mass killing of Jews during World War II. (AP wirephoto).

with say the climate of Houston, is gone.

Sports fans will continue to cross their fingers every spring that snowstorms will not delay the start of the baseball season, they will remain at the mercy of violent summer thunderstorms, and at football matches the only defence against the chill November winds will be the flask of rum traditionally carried in the back pocket.

Mr. Claude Charron, Quebec Minister for Sport, has little sympathy. He says the annual cost of running the complex is \$10.5 million. Income is only \$4 million. The taxpayer supports the deficit.

"It is a monstrous heritage, born of outrageous expense, socially unjustified and economically unrealistic," he said.

The sports fans' discomfort will be nothing compared to that of contractors who were involved in Olympic construction for provincial Premier René Lévesque has now ordered a judicial inquiry to find out why the games cost five times their original estimate.

The move came after the provincial auditor general examined just three Olympic contracts and found what he called significant irregularities. There is more than a suspicion that such an inquiry will

be used by the Parti Québécois government to discredit its political opponents. One columnist predicts that the first target will be Mayor Jean Drapeau. The man responsible for bringing the Olympics to Montreal.

Mr. Drapeau comes up for election next year and the feeling is that an interim report will be produced just in time to give the voters something to think about. Mr. Drapeau is a federalist and the Parti Québécois would dearly love one of their own separatists in the city which provides their power base.

Mr. Drapeau thinks the government is making a mistake by leaving the stadium unfinished. He thinks provincial pride requires it to be completed.

But others are not so sure. Montrealers seem to want to forget about the Olympics altogether.

There has been a suggestion that with the 1984 Olympics almost going begging for a site, the city should bid for them. It has all the facilities now, and it could do with the business. But no.

"It will be a long time before Montreal bids for an Olympic games again," says the mayor.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

S. Yemeni leader to visit Saudi Arabia

* ADEN, July 19 (R) — South Yemeni President Salem Robaye' Ali will visit Saudi Arabia on July 31, his first trip to his country's northern neighbour since they established diplomatic relations in March last year. It was officially announced here today. A Foreign Ministry spokesman here said the visit, at the invitation of King Khalid, would aim at "developing brotherly relations of co-operation" between the two countries. Saudi Arabia decided last year to recognise the leftist regime of South Yemen which has been in power here since independence from Britain 10 years ago. Observers thought that President Robaye' Ali was likely to discuss with the Saudi monarch the situation in the Red Sea while the Aden government supports Ethiopia's Marxist rulers while Saudi Arabia supports Eritreans fighting for the independence of their Red Sea province from Ethiopian rule.

Indira Gandhi's statement to be probed

* NEW DELHI, July 19 (R) — A Privileges Committee of the Indian Lok Sabha (lower house) will decide whether a statement by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was a breach of privilege. Deputy Speaker Godey Murumari announced yesterday. The statement last week was Mrs. Gandhi's denial of an allegation by Home Minister Charan Singh that her government had made preparations to kill opposition leaders imprisoned during her 21-month emergency rule. Mrs. Gandhi said she found the charges "shocking and preposterous" and without any basis, adding: "However, I find that some leaders of the Janata Party government are determined to pursue their smear campaign of character assassination inside and outside parliament so as to denigrate not only me but the Congress Party as a whole." A Janata Party member objected to the statement on the ground it imputed motives and amounted to a contempt of the House.

Australian fact finding team in Israel

* TEL AVIV, July 19 (R) — A five man parliamentary delegation from Australia arrived here yesterday for a visit to Israel while on a fact finding tour of the Middle East. Mr. Anthony Staley, Minister of State, who heads the delegation said that after meeting the leaders of Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, they could fully support Australia's Middle East policy and especially the friendship that characterises the relations between Australia and the Arab countries. The group was to meet Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, members of the Knesset from different factions, and Labour Party leader Mr. Shimon Peres. At the end of their six-day visit here the delegation flies back home.

PLO to open Indonesian office

* JAKARTA, July 19 (R) — A visiting Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader, Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, called on President Suharto here today. Mr. Kaddoumi held talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik yesterday and said later that the PLO planned to open an office here soon.

Egypt repatriates 19 dead Israelis

* TEL AVIV, July 19 (AFP) — The bodies of 19 Israeli soldiers killed in the 1967 war were repatriated to Israel from Egypt today, the International Red Cross announced. A Red Cross communiqué said the operation took place at 10:00 GMT in the United Nations buffer zone in the Sinai. Egyptians found the bodies last week during work on the bank of the Suez Canal. Separate ceremonies were conducted in the Egyptian zone and the buffer zone.

Ahmad Jibril to have Moscow talks

* BEIRUT, July 19 (R) — The leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), Mr. Ahmad Jibril, has left Damascus for Moscow, the front announced here today. A spokesman said Mr. Jibril would have talks with Soviet leaders on current developments. Mr. Jibril was received in Damascus yesterday by Syrian President Hafez Assad. The PFLP-GC had recently split into a pro-Syrian and a pro-Iraqi faction. The pro-Syrian group under Mr. Jibril retained the original name, while the pro-Iraqi faction under Abu Al Abbas called itself the Palestine Liberation Front.

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